

SENATE RESOLUTION 225

By Ramsey

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate George St. John on the celebration of his ninety-fifth birthday and the St. John Milling Company on its 230th anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to those citizens who are celebrating special occasions in their estimable lives and those establishments that reach significant landmarks in their histories; and

WHEREAS, George St. John will celebrate his ninety-fifth birthday on March 6, 2008, a milestone that will be commemorated as yet another precious souvenir of life's rich pageant, and his family's St. John Milling Company, the oldest business in Tennessee, has reached its 230th year of successful operation; and

WHEREAS, the son of James T. St. John and Josephine Thomas, Mr. St. John was born and raised in Watauga; and

WHEREAS, a highly respected member of the Johnson City community, he was educated in the St. Johns' own stone house before attending the Barnes School and Johnson City Schools; he later graduated from the University of Tennessee with a degree in Electrical Engineering; and

WHEREAS, in 1935, Mr. St. John began operating the St. John Milling Company and, in an effort to continually improve its operations, he committed himself to updating and modernizing the mill by converting the mill's power source from a water wheel to electricity, expanding the main buildings, and adding two large outbuildings; and

WHEREAS, in evidence of his unwavering work ethic, George St. John continues to work at the mill two days a week after reaching an age when most are content to pass the days in less active pursuits; and

WHEREAS, a distinguished member of this nation's greatest generation, in 1942 Mr. St. John interrupted his endeavors at the family mill to enlist in the United States Navy, where he attended officer's candidate school and was deployed on a Pacific fleet destroyer as an engineering officer; and

WHEREAS, during a short hiatus during his Navy training, Mr. St. John was joined in marriage with Elizabeth "Libby" Bolton, and the couple's blessed union produced two daughters, Elizabeth, wife of Ron Dawson, and Martha, wife of Preston Eldred; he is the proud grandfather of Jay Dawson, Libby Dawson, Blair Eldred, and Hilary Eldred Seagraves and great-grandfather of Olivia Eldred; and

WHEREAS, throughout his almost ten decades, George St. John has been an active and productive member of society, participating in various civic and community events. He was president of the Barnes Community Club, president of the Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Washington County, president of the Appalachian Regional Fair, a member of the Rotary Club of Johnson City, and is still active in the Washington County Soil Conservation District as an associate board member; and

WHEREAS, a devout and active member of Munsey Memorial United Methodist Church in Johnson City, Mr. St. John served the church many years as the chairman of the administrative board and numerous other committees, a trustee, and an usher; and

WHEREAS, we wish to grasp this golden opportunity to specially recognize one of Tennessee's most outstanding citizens and its most historic business on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and congratulate both George St. John on the celebration of his ninety-fifth birthday and the St. John Milling Company on its 230th anniversary, as we extend to them our best wishes for much continued success and prosperity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.